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CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Activities in Zeitz

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 26 May 1955

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REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 1 May 1955, the Infanterie Kaserne (8541) in Zeitz was occupied by approximately 500 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets including 100 soldiers with artillery and a few with motor transport and signal insignia and 250 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including approximately 125 soldiers with tank insignia. Between 1 and 8 May, individual units of platoon and company strength were seen marching to, or returning from, the Zeitz Forest. On 3 May, a column of 15 trucks with billeting equipment left the installation toward Zeitzer Forest.

On 8 May, 1,000 to 1,250 soldiers were lined up in the barracks yard. They included some 500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and, 70 to 80 percent of them, tank insignia; the latter had come from the Artillerie Kaserne (8542).

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2. Between 1 and 6 May, the Artillerie Kaserne was occupied by an estimated 500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including 60 to 70 percent with tank insignia. Training was held in the vicinity of the installation and at the firing ranges. At about 1930 on 3 May, 8 T-34/85 tanks and 2 tank trucks left the installation toward the Zeitz Forest.

Comment. The Infanterie Kaserne is believed to be occupied by the 67th Gds Mecz Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div and the Artillerie Kaserne is believed to quarter the 36th Gds Tank Regt, the 24th RL Bn and, presumably, the Mtrcl Bn of this division. While elements of the 20th Gds Mecz Div from Jena and Weimar presumably left for the summer camps in early May, the Zeitz post appears to be occupied as previously.

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